



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

October 14, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wisconsin National Guard helps ensure deployed service members can vote

Wisconsin National Guard officials have joined forces with the State Elections Board to help deployed service members get absentee ballots in time to cast votes in the upcoming election. Beginning before the Spring elections and continuing through September, the Guard has been educating deployed service members and their families, providing timely information on how to get absentee ballots — and even helping to deliver them.

Fax machines and email technology simplify the process and reduce mailing time by allowing service members to use the internet and email to request and receive absentee ballots. Service members can either contact their municipal clerk directly via email or visit www.fvap.gov or <http://elections.state.wi.us> and print out a ballot request. Ballot requests can be mailed, emailed or faxed to the municipal clerks, whose mailing addresses can also be found on the Wisconsin State Elections Board Web site.

Municipal clerks without the capability to email ballots to deployed service members can get help from the Wisconsin National Guard. Clerks have been instructed to contact the Guard's staff judge advocate's office, where paper documents will be converted into an electronic format and emailed to service members.

Once service members receive their ballots they should be completed and mailed back to the municipal clerk. While completed ballots are not accepted via email, using technology to request and obtain the ballots can take up to a month off of the mailing process — ensuring deployed service members can get ballots in time to vote. The Wisconsin Guard recommends that absentee ballots be postmarked and mailed from the deployed location as soon as possible, but no later than Oct. 22.

Wisconsin Guard officials are confident that all Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen who wish to vote in the Nov. 2 election can have their votes counted if they follow the procedures established to streamline the voting process for deployed service members. These procedures were reinforced today [Oct. 14] by Wisconsin National Guard leaders in a communication to the Guard's deployed soldiers and airmen.

In addition to the 358 Wisconsin National Guard personnel currently overseas, the Wisconsin Guard also provided information to the major commands of Wisconsin's other reserve components of the armed forces so they could disseminate it to their deployed troops.

#

Current News Releases available at: <http://dma.wi.gov/news.asp>